

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

PRESENTATION OF THE IMPROVEMENT QUESTION.

HON. HIRAM R. STEELE OF LOUISIANA

On the Necessity of a Complete System.

Appropriations for Relief After

Overflows: None to Prevent.

From the number of so-called

"efficient engineers" and "practical

observers" who are suggesting plans

for preventing floods in the valley of

the lower Mississippi by means of out-

lets and other impracticable schemes,

says Hon. Hiram R. Steele, chairman

Executive Board Mississippi River Im-

provement Association, writing to the

New York Herald, "The public might

infer that the plan of the Mississippi

River Commission on the efficacy of

leaves as means of preventing over-

flows has been tried by the General

Government and proved to be a failure.

Such is not the case, but, on the con-

trary, while the act of 1879 creating the

Mississippi River Commission declares

one of the purposes to be the prepara-

tion of "plans to prevent destructive

floods," still every river and harbor bill

for the purpose of appropriating

money for the improvement of the Mis-

sissippi River has contained this express

restriction: "Provided that no portion

of this appropriation shall be expended

to repair or build levees for the purpose

of reclaiming lands, or of preventing in-

jury to lands or private property by

overflows, provided, however, that the

commission is authorized to repair and

build levees if, in their judgment, it

should be done as part of a well-planned

system to afford safety to the naviga-

tion and commerce of the river and to

deepen the channel."

The only aid which the levee system

has received from the River Commission

has been confined to the interests of

SAVING SOLID.

while the partial and imperfect levee

system which has been tried is con-

structed chiefly by local taxation. This

imperfect levee system, even under the

disconnected control of local authorities,

has been steadily improving, and dur-

ing the present flood afforded protection

to 75 per cent. of the alluvial valley.

The commission and all engineers

familiar with the subject agree that

there are no engineering difficulties in

the way but that it is perfectly prac-

ticable to conduct the highest possible

floods of the Mississippi safely to the

Gulf by means of levees, and the esti-

mate is that \$10,000,000, to be ex-

ended during a period of three years,

will be sufficient to so repair, enlarge

and extend the levees as to give abso-

lute protection to the valley from Cairo

to the Gulf.

A MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION

and all engineers who have had charge

of work of improvement also agree

that a complete levee system is abso-

lutely essential to the permanent im-

provement of the channel for purposes

of navigation. In the recent examina-

tion before the Senate Commerce Com-

mission, the majority of the commis-

sion and five engineers stated that if re-

quired to improve the navigation of the

river they would build levees, even if

the valley of the Mississippi was an un-

inhabited wilderness.

The Government has always been

ready to grant liberal appropriations

for relief after overflows, but constitu-

tional objections seem to be urged

against the use of public money to pre-

vent such disaster levels. The argu-

ment, but conceding for the sake of

argument that the interests of com-

merce and the postal service as well as

the protection of this great alluvial

valley, extending through eight States,

do not make the control of the river

benefits to navigation, but also the pre-

vention of destructive floods.

This will be

THE MOST ECONOMICAL COURSE,

as levees not of stone or strong enough

to withstand possible floods are liable

to be destroyed, while a levee system

of navigation cannot be realized until

the system is complete. When such a

system, built in accordance with the

GOSSIP OF THE SPORTS

NEWS OF THE BALL FIELD.

TRACK AND PRIZE RING.

WASHINGTON'S DOUBLE LOSS.

Now in Second Place—The Schedule

Not to be Changed—Dwyer

Bros. Mistake.

BASEBALL.

Washington Drops in Second Place in

the Race

The opponents of Sunday baseball

must feel highly gratified to-day, for

the Washington Club not only lost yes-

terday's game, but it dropped to second

place in the race.

This is in accordance with their

openly expressed desire that the team

which it participated.

Their wishes are rather one-sided,

however, for it takes two clubs to play

a game, and if there is any duplicity

about it both are equally guilty. But

both cannot lose.

On Saturday the game was an excel-

lently contested one, which was lost by

one run. Dwyer was responsible for the

loss of the game, as he dropped a fly

ball after two men were out, and two

runs resulted.

In yesterday's game the Jersey City

team, the home of the Phillies, de-

livered and batted it freely, taking a

commanding lead at the beginning of

the game. Sullivan's men managed to

tie the game before the ninth inning

commenced, but the Jersey City suc-

ceeded in again beating Mr. Phil-

lips' team in the tenth and won by a

score of 7 to 6.

By these two defeats the local club

dropped from first place to a tie with

Baltimore for second place. New

Haven, by defeating Baltimore on Sat-

urday, took second place, and, when

Washington lost yesterday, it jumped

into the lead. The Connecticut lads

are playing pennant-winning ball just

at present, as is seen by the defeat of

both Baltimore and Washington, and

if it can maintain its present gait, it

will be an important factor in the

race.

WHAT WILL THE CLUB DO?

The numerous defeats the local team

has sustained since it started on the

present disastrous trip has opened the

eyes of its admirers to the fact that it

is not as strong as it was supposed to

be, and that it needs strengthening at

once. Although the team started away

very badly crippled, and is yet, it

would not have lost so continuously

had it not been weaker than the other

clubs. The general opinion, which in

fact is a fact, beyond cavil, is that

the team is sadly deficient in

pitching material. The new man,

Underwood, is an unknown quantity,

and until he is tried, possibly at the

sacrifice of a game, we shall not know

how the club is fixed. It is said that

Sullivan has a line out for another

pitcher of established reputation who

he expects to secure during the coming

week. Until then or it is known just

how the club is fixed, it is to be

strengthened by the fact that it can

be relied on.

WHY CHANGE THE SCHEDULE?

The Brotherhood organs throughout

the country are frantically declaring

that unless the League changes its

schedule it will go to the wall. This

soliloquy on the part of the rival or-

ganization, to say the least, is very

touching. Why should the League change

a schedule made for the avowed pur-

pose of conflicting with the Brother-

hood? Why should it change its sched-

ule to get the share of the patronage

and in fact for the past two weeks has

been playing to larger crowds than the

rival organization. Its expenses are not

sooner paid, and it would be well to

ask if the crowds were smaller so long

as the Brotherhood attendance was

proportionately reduced.

IN THE PADDOCK.

Horsemen Trying to Pick the Winner

of the Suburban.

The second big racing event of the

year, the Suburban, will be run on June

17, and ever since the announcement of

THE DAILY CRITIC, MONDAY EVENING, MAY 26, 1890.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION

OF THE

FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' NATIONAL

BANK

At Georgetown, in the District of Columbia,

At the close of business May 15, 1890.

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts, \$508,707.10

Overdrafts, secured and un-

secured, 287.87

U. S. bonds to secure circulation,

25,000.00

U. S. bonds on hand, 51,000.00

Stocks, securities, judgments,

claims, etc., 287.87

Due from approved reserve agents,

25,000.00

Due from other national banks,

25,000.00

Due from State banks and bank-

ers, 40.00

Banking house, furniture and fix-

tures, 25,000.00

Current expenses and taxes paid,

4,375.00

Prepaid interest on U. S. bonds,

15,375.00

Checks and other cash items,

25,000.00

Unpaid deposits subject to

check, 6,250.00

Practical paper currency, nick-

els and cents, 51.12

Specie, 319,925.00

Legal tender notes, 25,000.00

Redemption fund with U. S. Treas-

urer 5 per cent. of circulation,

11,250.00

Total, \$1,017,000.00

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in, \$250,000.00

Surplus fund, 25,000.00

Undivided profits, 25,000.00

National bank notes outstanding,

10,000.00

Individual deposits subject to

check, 10,000.00

Unpaid deposits subject to

check, 1,000.00

Demands certificates of deposit,

1,000.00

Certified checks, 2,500.00

Due to other national banks,

2,500.00

Due to State banks and bank-

ers, 1,000.00

Other real estate and mortgages,

2,500.00

Current expenses and taxes paid,

4,375.00

Prepaid interest on U. S. bonds,

15,375.00

Checks and other cash items,

25,000.00

Unpaid deposits subject to

check, 6,250.00

Practical paper currency, nick-

els and cents, 51.12

Specie, 116,775.00

Legal tender notes, 10,000.00

U. S. certificates of deposit for

lenders, 10,000.00